

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED NINETH MEETING

Lost Valley Visitor Center
7210 Keystone Road
Richmond, IL

September 20, 2011 10:00 a.m.

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes of the 208th Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2011

Item 4: Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule

January 24, 2012 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield
May 8, 2012 – Northwestern, Illinois, Location to be determined
September 18, 2012 – Monroe County Annex Building, Waterloo

Item 5: Election of Advisors and Consultants

REPORT

Jill Riddell

Nominating Committee

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Election of Advisors and Consultants

Current Advisors:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Marc Miller IL Department of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor) | Dr. Brian Anderson IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor) | Dr. Bonnie Styles IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor) |
| Dr. Mike Demissie IL State Water Survey | Dr. Thomas E. Emerson Illinois State Archaeological Survey | Dr. E. Donald McKay, III IL State Geological Survey |
| Dr. John C. Marlin IL Sustainable Technology Center | Dr. Gary Miller Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability | Dr. William W. Shilts Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability |
| Robert Weichert Illinois Historic Preservation Agency | | |

Current Consultants:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Gerald Adelmann | Jill Allread | Marilyn Campbell |
| Tom Clay | Harry Drucker | Kenneth Fiske |
| Jerry Paulson | Joseph Roth | Bruce Ross-Shannon |
| John Schwegman | Valerie Spale | Leslee Spraggins |
| John White | | |

Item 6: INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 7: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Don McFall
Department of Natural Resources

Item 8: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski
Endangered Species Protection Board Manager

Item 9:* Logan Co. – Tract #1 Addition to North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Mrs. Gillette M. Ransom, owner of the 36.04-acre North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve (INAI #0178), seeks approval for the permanent registration of 15.83 acres in two parcels (12.33 acres and 3.5 acres), known as Tract #1, as an addition to North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve. The Land and Water Reserve and proposed addition are located about 14 miles northeast of Springfield in the Springfield Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. North Elkhart Hill Grove supports grade B and grade C mesic upland forest with canopy species that include blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), yellow chestnut oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). The Tract #1 proposed addition is not listed on the INAI, and contains a mixture of grade C and grade D mesic upland forest with many of the same species as the Land and Water Reserve. Registration of the proposed addition will support the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) through the Invasive Species Campaign, Forest Campaign, and Land and Water Stewardship Campaign. The proposed addition serves as a necessary adjunct to the Land and Water Reserve by helping to protect high-quality areas from the effects of nearby row-crop agriculture, cattle pastures, and exurban developments. Registration of this addition will increase the area under protection at North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve to 51.87 acres.

REPORT

Tom Lerczak
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 10:* Pike Co. – McFarland Hill Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Marilyn Anderson proposes to permanently register 95 acres as McFarland Hill Land and Water Reserve. The property is located in the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division near New Canton. The proposed land and water reserve contains important

archaeological features. The site is unique in that it contains one of the only known village sites of the Mississippian Age within the region. McFarland Hill represents a rare example of a virtually intact 14th century Mississippian Tradition nucleated village. The site is considered highly unique in terms of its outstanding preservation as well as its cultural content. Even though the village site has been cultivated for agricultural production, the plowing has brought to the surface a rich array of prehistoric artifacts including stone tools, pieces of ceramic pots, animal bone and mollusk shell, burned timbers and detritus of everyday life from seven centuries ago. An examination of the recovered artifacts and organic materials indicate that preservation within the site is excellent with the vast majority of the archaeological features still intact. In addition to the archaeological features there are also six species in greatest need of conservation found on the property, these include yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), Kentucky warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), and American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). This site is included in the Route 96 Hill Prairie Conservation Opportunity Area of the IWAP.

REPORT

Ray Geroff

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 11:* Kankakee Co. – Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is proposing to dedicate 77 acres located in Kankakee County as an addition to the Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. This acreage is part of the Leesville Savanna Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1006), which is collectively owned by the IDNR, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and private landowners. In 2009 and 2010, TNC dedicated its holdings as the Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The IDNR wishes to help complete preserve design of this site by dedicating its qualifying acreage as a nature preserve addition. The 77 acres lie within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, which is recognized by the IWAP as a Conservation Opportunity Area. Leesville Savanna is included on the INAI for its grade B dry and dry-mesic sand savannas, grade B sand flatwoods, and for the presence of 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), orange fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus setosus*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). Ten of these state-listed species occur within the proposed addition. The proposed addition to the Nature Preserve will provide another 77 acres of the Leesville Savanna INAI with the highest protection offered by the state of Illinois and will protect additional habitat for many plants and animals of conservation concern. This IDNR addition will make the Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve 155-acres in size which will facilitate uniform management of this important site to maintain its unique landscape character.

REPORT

Eric Smith

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Department of Natural Resources

Item 12:* Lake Co. – McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 532 acres of the 2751.7-acre Lakewood Forest Preserve as McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve includes 417.7 acres as nature preserve and 114.3 acres as nature preserve buffer. The proposed nature preserve honors the support of the McLean family and is located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southwestern Lake County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area. The proposed nature preserve includes grade C/D dry-mesic forest and grade C/D freshwater marsh and extensive natural community reconstructions. The proposed nature preserve also supports populations of a state-endangered reptile, eight state-endangered birds: the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Forester's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), and yellow-headed black bird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). There are also three state-threatened bird species: the black-billed cuckoo (*Cucyzyus erythrophthalmus*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), and least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). Protection and stewardship of the proposed McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve supports action #1 and #2 of the IWAP Wetlands Campaign "... to improve the condition of existing and artificial wetlands" and develop additional wetland habitat; action #3 of the Farmland and Prairie Campaign for restoring and enhancing acreage for rare/extirpated species (specifically prairies and grassland nesting birds), and actions #1 and #2 of the Forest Campaign to "maintain and enhance forest composition, increase acreage/habitat connectivity, and management of forest communities."

REPORT

Jim Anderson

Lake County Forest Preserve District

Steven Byers

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* McHenry Co. – Nature Preserve Addition and Buffer Addition to Barber Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 71.3-acre addition (44 acres as nature preserve addition and 27.3 acres as buffer addition) to the 18.5-acre Barber Fen Nature Preserve. Barber Fen Nature Preserve is owned by Rodney and Libbie Aavang and was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve in November, 1990 at the Commission's 130th Meeting (Resolution 1064). Barber Fen Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD's Queen Anne Macrosite. The Nature Preserve and much of the proposed addition lie within the Barber Fen INAI site (#1267) and a portion of the Nippersink Creek INAI site (#1506). The proposed addition includes grade B/C sedge meadow, grade B/C graminoid fen, grade C mesic forest, grade C wet-mesic floodplain forest, high-quality

low-gradient small stream and pond aquatic communities, and old field and pastureland cultural communities. To date, 341 native plant species have been recorded from the Nature Preserve and proposed addition, and the site supports the state-endangered nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*) and state-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). The creek and adjacent wetlands support a state-endangered reptile, the state-threatened least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) and two mussels (spike [*Elliptio dilatata*] and slippershell mussel [*Alasmidonta viridis*]). Extensive wildlife surveys conducted by the MCCD report 12 bird, eight fish, two reptile, four mussel and six butterfly species from the site that are identified by the IWAP as "...species in greatest need of conservation." Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports action #1 of the Wetlands Campaign "... to improve the condition of existing and artificial wetlands" and action #6 of the Streams Campaign "...to restore and manage high-quality examples of all river, stream, lake, and pond communities...". Dedication of the proposed addition will increase Barber Fen Nature Preserve from 18.5 to 89.8 acres and honor the Aavang's vision for land protection. This proposal reserves the right for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* McHenry Co. – Buffer Addition to Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The MCCD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 122.3 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to the 17.4-acre Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve. Bystricky Prairie was owned by Joseph and Harriet Bystricky when the site was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve in September, 1987 at the Commission's 115th Meeting (Resolution 956). Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD's Queen Anne Macrosite. The proposed buffer addition encompasses nearly all the Slough Creek Sedge Meadow INAI site (#0715) and includes grade C/D sedge meadow, grade C/D wet-mesic prairie, grade C/D low-gradient small stream, and two cultural communities consisting of an old field and community reconstruction. To date, 249 native plant species have been recorded from the Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition including a federally-listed species, two state-listed orchids, state-endangered tall sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*), downy yellow painted cup (*Castilleja sessiflora*), queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), and balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*). Wildlife surveys conducted by the MCCD report four butterflies (silver-bordered fritillary [*Boloria selene*]; purplish copper [*Lycaena helloides*]; Dion skipper [*Eupheys dion*]; and broad-winged skipper [*Poanes viator*]) and one fish (central mudminnow [*Umbra limi*]) from the site that are identified in the IWAP as "...species in greatest need of conservation." Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports action #1 of the Wetland Campaign to "...improve the condition of existing and natural wetlands." Dedication of the proposed buffer addition will increase Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve from 17.4 to 139.7 acres and honor Joseph Bystricky's vision for land protection. This proposal reserves the right

for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* McHenry Co. – Nature Preserve Addition and Buffer Addition to Lind Forest Nature Preserve, Dedication

The MCCD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 39.13-acre addition (26.07 acres as nature preserve addition and 13.06 acres as buffer addition) to the 20-acre Lind Forest Nature Preserve. Lind Forest was owned by Helen Lind when the site was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve in May, 1993 at the Commission's 139th Meeting (Resolution 1184). The site was acquired by the MCCD in December, 2002. Lind Forest Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD's Queen Anne Macrosite. The Nature Preserve and a small portion of the proposed addition lie within the Lind Forest INAI site (#1266) and a portion of the Nippersink Creek INAI site (#1506). The proposed addition includes grade B mesic forest, grade C mesic savanna, grade B seep, high-gradient small stream, and a cultural community consisting of pastureland. To date, 218 native plant species have been recorded from the Nature Preserve and proposed addition, and the site supports the state-endangered nodding trillium (*Trillium cernuum*), ill-scented trillium (*T. erectum*), and the state-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). Two state-threatened mussels (spike [*Elliptio dilatata*] and slippershell mussel [*Alasmidonta viridis*]) have been documented from Nippersink Creek, and it is likely both occur within the boundary of both the nature preserve and proposed addition. Extensive wildlife surveys of the site conducted by the MCCD report eight fish and four mussel species that are identified by the IWAP as "...species in greatest need of conservation." Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports action #7 of the Forest Campaign "... to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities," action #2b of that Campaign which calls for contributing to "...ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches," and action #6 of the Streams Campaign "...to restore and manage high-quality examples of all river, stream, lake, and pond communities...". Dedication of the proposed addition will increase Lind Forest Nature Preserve from 20.0 to 59.13 acres and honor Helen Lind's vision for land protection. This proposal reserves the right for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* McHenry Co. – Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The MCCD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 40.5 acres as Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve. The proposed Slough Creek Fen Nature Preserve is located in

the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in McHenry County, within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Complex Conservation Opportunity Area and the MCCD's Queen Anne Macrosite. The proposed nature preserve encompasses most, but not all, of the Standlee Fen INAI site (#1614). The proposed nature preserve includes grade B calcareous floating mat, grade B shrub fen, grade C mesic savanna, grade C/D sedge meadow, a grade C/D low-gradient small stream, and a cultural community (pastureland) awaiting community reconstruction. To date, 226 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve, including a federally-listed species. Protection and stewardship of the proposed nature preserve supports two of the IWAP Campaigns; action #1 of the Wetlands Campaign "... to improve the condition of existing and artificial wetlands," and action #2b of the Forest Campaign that calls for "...ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches." This proposal reserves the right for the MCCD to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreation opportunities in accordance with INPC guidelines.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Pulaski Co. – Hartman Spring Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Audubon Society seeks preliminary approval for dedication of Hartman Spring as an Illinois nature preserve. Hartman Spring is a 40-acre site in the western part of the Cretaceous Hills Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division, and comprises the Britton Spring INAI site (#0022). Hartman Spring is significant because it contains high-quality habitat for a state-endangered amphibian, as well as exceptional features of a spring and spring run. Protection of the proposed Hartman Spring Nature Preserve supports action steps identified by the IWAP to preserve a state-endangered amphibian as one of Illinois' Species in Greatest Need of Conservation and also to improve natural wetland conditions by protecting acres of INAI spring and seep habitat identified by the IWAP Wetlands Campaign.

REPORT
Scott Ballard
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 18:* Cook Co. – Addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) seeks final approval for dedication of two lots, totaling 0.14 acres of dry mesic prairie, as a nature preserve addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve. The Commission granted preliminary approval for dedication of Wolf Road Prairie (including these two lots) at its 111th Meeting in July, 1986 (Resolution 898). Wolf Road Prairie is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Cook County. Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed two-lot addition are located within the Wolf Road Prairie INAI site (#0251). This INAI site includes grade A/B/C mesic prairie and grade C freshwater marsh. Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve is owned in part by the IDNR, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and Save the Prairie Society. Protection and stewardship of Wolf Road Prairie and the proposed addition supports

the IWAP Campaigns; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality prairie and wetland communities.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* Lake Co. – Sarah and Robert Allgyer Prairie Buffer Addition to Skokie River Nature Preserve, Dedication

Sarah and Robert Allgyer seek final approval for dedication of a 0.90-acre buffer addition to the 137-acre Skokie River Nature Preserve. Skokie River Nature Preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Lake County. Skokie River Nature Preserve encompasses McLaughlin Prairie and Shaw Prairie, two high-quality mesic prairies recognized by the INAI (#0658). The proposed buffer addition consists primarily of grade C/D mesic prairie and a cultural community. To date, 72 plant species have been reported from the proposed buffer addition. The initial proposal for dedication of Skokie River Nature Preserve recognized the Nature Preserve’s patchwork design and recommended “...dedication of adjacent lands as buffer... (and) natural community restoration.” The proposed buffer addition is consistent with that recommendation, lies adjacent to the Skokie River Nature Preserve, and may lead to additional opportunities to formally protect and manage additional privately-owned lands located along the border of the Nature Preserve. The landowner reserves the right to maintain the woodchip trail. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 207th Meeting in February, 2011 (Resolution 2120).

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 20:* Monroe Co. – White Rock Nature Preserve, Dedication

Clifftop NFP, and Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. seek final approval for dedication of White Rock Nature Preserve. The proposed White Rock Nature Preserve is a 306.5-acre site in the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain within the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. It is also located within the Bluff Corridor/Karst COA and supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests, Invasive Species, and Land and Water stewardship campaigns. The site consists of five acres of grade A loess hill prairie, and two acres of grade B limestone glade intermingled with 299 acres of grade C mature second growth dry-mesic, mesic, and dry upland forest. The White Rock site encompasses approximately 47 acres of the Monroe City Hill Prairie INAI site (#0199). The site also contains populations of the state-threatened Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia missouriensis*), the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and a state-threatened reptile. The proposed nature preserve was previously registered in 2005 by Columbia Quarry Company as the term-limited Columbia Quarry-White Rock Land and Water Reserve. In December 2010, two southwestern Illinois conservation organizations purchased the site, with funding from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the Grand Victoria Foundation, and the

State Wildlife Grant program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 208th Meeting in May, 2011 (Resolution 2140).

REPORT
Debbie Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 21:* Jo Daviess Co. – Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve Proposed Parking Lot

The IDNR seeks approval to construct a small parking lot within the western edge of the dedicated portion of Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve. The approximate 45-foot by 50-foot parking lot would be located off South Whitton Road and would improve management of the significant natural resources at the Nature Preserve. It would also provide a safe location for parking for the public and IDNR/INPC staff. Location of a parking lot at the proposed location would also serve to draw visitors away from the bluffs at the south end of the Nature Preserve which provide the only known birthing and hibernating locations for a state threatened reptile at Hanover Bluff. Construction of the parking lot would provide a location to install INPC entrance and interpretive signs to inform visitors as to the significance of the Nature Preserve and presence and protected status of the rare natural resources.

REPORT
Ed Anderson
Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Parking Lot

Item 22: Election of Officers – INPC Nominating Committee Report

REPORT
Jill Riddell
Nominating Committee
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Election of Officers

Item 23: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2012 Stewardship Proposals

The Natural Areas Stewardship project uses monies provided by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) to support management activities on both state and non-state-owned nature preserves and land and water reserves. The FY12 Capital Budget is not yet finalized, so amounts available for Natural Areas Stewardship are not yet known. The IDNR intends to fund as many submitted proposals as funds will permit. The IDNR requests approval of the FY12 NAAF Stewardship Proposal list in anticipation of available funding.

REPORT
Bob Szafoni
Department of Natural Resources
Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Commission Approval

Item 24: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 25: Other Business

Item 26: Adjournment